

Lucy Calkins Classroom Libraries Video Interview Transcript

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Question: *What advice do you have for schools that will build their libraries over time?*

Lucy: I love going to a smorgasbord with other people—we all have our plates, and there's all this food, and you get to watch how people make different choices. And in a way, purchasing these libraries is going to be a little bit like that process. You each will be reviewing the libraries, and then making the choices that work for you. I'm imagining that some schools have just state-of-the-art libraries. If your school has always invested in books for kids and you're in the position of already having a state-of-the-art library, my hunch is that when looking at the libraries we have compiled, you're going to go straight for the read-aloud books and the picture books. And you should, because we had so many choices from which to choose for the picture books, and the ones that we chose are to-die-for, and a lot of them are new—you're just going to love them.

Then there are going to be others of you where the choices are going to be different. If your library is not as developed, you may need libraries that are going to really sustain your kids as readers. For example, you may have first graders who simply don't have enough leveled books, so you're going to need to choose the libraries with levels C, and D and E and F, because that's what your kids need. Or you might prioritize ordering the high interest fiction books because that's you're your kids need to become readers. So I know you're going to be making the choices that fit with what you've already got and with what your priorities are, and you're going to probably make some choices this year, and then come back and make some other choices next year. I look forward to seeing how the whole library project ends up meeting different needs in different ways.

To learn more about the TCRWP Classroom Libraries, browse representative titles, and order shelves, visit calkinslibraries.com